



THE MAIL POUCH

VOLUME 36

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October 2024



MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, Oct 10th, 2024. The meeting will begin promptly at 7:00pm and will be held at The Museum's Taylor Annex. For directions or additional information, please contact James Taylor at (540) 295-2974.

October Meeting Agenda

- Brief Update on recent progress at the Museum's cars and displays.*
- Discussion of upcoming Projects.*
- Entertainment TBD.*

On The Cover: California State Railroad Museum's "Spookomotive"

A monthly publication of the Rappahannock Railroad Museum

Opinions expressed in *The Mail Pouch* are those of the editor and contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Rappahannock Railroad Museum, Inc.. Please send all correspondence to the following address:

Rappahannock Railroad Museum, Inc.
11700 Main St.
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Museum Officers and Staff

President:	James F. Taylor	Chief Mech Engineer:	Donald Kirkpatrick
First Vice President:	Leo Zerhusen	Museum Liaison:	Theodore Barker
Secretary:	Frank Schimmenti	Newsletter Editor:	James Keehner
Treasurer:	Virginia Smith	Registered Agent:	Mike Thomas
Museum Curator:	James F. Taylor	Chairman B.O.D.	Mike Thomas
Webmaster:	Dennis Overcash		

Web Site: www.RRMuseum.org

THE PRESIDENTS PAGE

September was a very trying month for the Museum. The first half was HOT and dry as we started several large outside projects. Then mid month it turned chilly and seemed to have some rain every day, making it hard to finish needed projects. But on good side we had good visitor attendance and equipment ran with just a few problems all month. We now are planning a busy catch up October with construction in area, visitors wanting to see leaves change from Train and finishing projects before it gets cold.

We generally all ways have a busy fall but with the dedicated family of members we will survive and look forward to 2025 and presenting living history to all.

We do welcome all Rail Historians to visit us and consider joining us as we continue to grow.

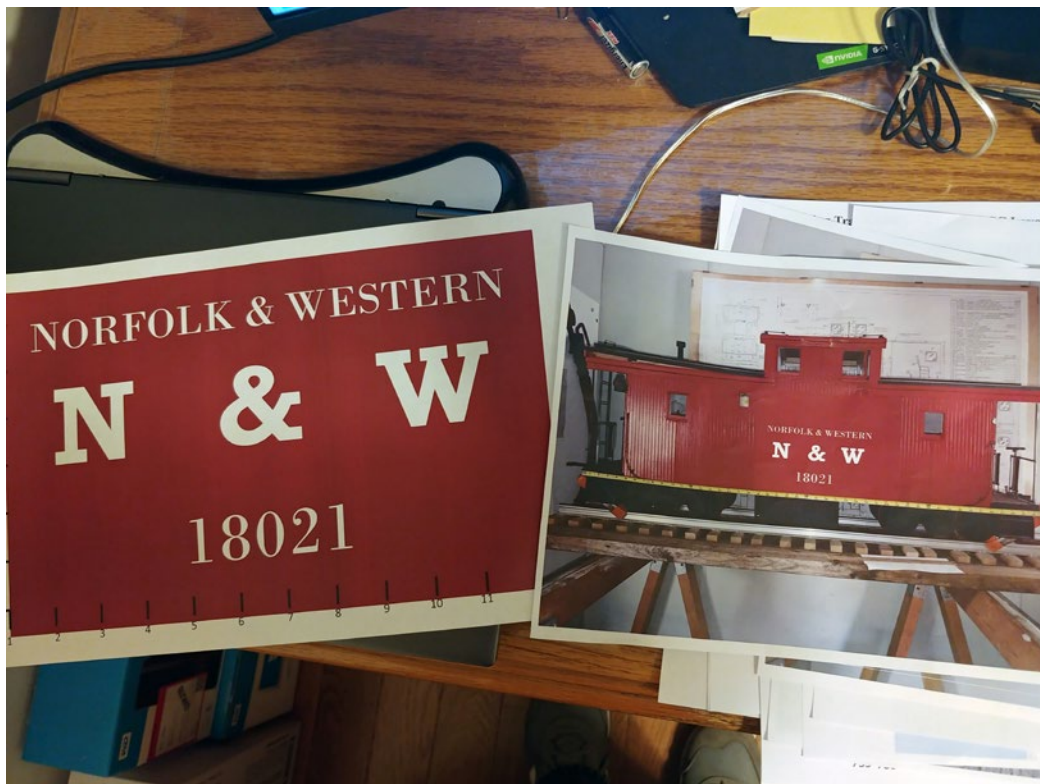
James (Jake) Taylor
President
Rappahannock Railroad Museum

EDITOR'S NOTE

The Museum and the Editor can use your help to fill the pages of the Mail Pouch. If you have a subject you would like to share, photos or just about any other information, please consider submitting it for publication in our Mailpouch. There are a lot of exciting things happening at the Museum, I would be glad to publish personal notes from those who are making the changes and updates at the museum. All submissions will be included in the Mail Pouch (unless restricted by copywrite laws).

Thank you all for your support.

Jim Keehner
Editor
Rappahannock Railroad Museum



One of the projects in progress, ember Phil M. is working on lettering for the model N&W caboose we have on display.

“Promoting Railway History and Preservation”

UPCOMING EVENTS

Rappahannock Railroad Museum EVERY SATURDAY MORNING TRAIN RIDE – EXCURSION. Ride the rails along Historic Deep Run Creek in Spotsylvania Co. on open rail maintenance cars and experience how the railroad workers of the mid 20th century rode to their worksites. Every Saturday 9AM to Noon – weather and conditions permitting. To ensure you get aboard the last train run, please be at the museum by 10:30AM. We attempt to board all parties on a first come basis but boarding is conducted on the platform by our station conductor and train crew so first come first aboard may not always occur. All children under 12 or those needing intensive supervision must be accompanied by a responsible adult. They must be seated together. Departing from the Rappahannock Railroad Museum, 11700 Main Street, Fredericksburg, Va. 22408. Donations accepted.

Monthly Meetings:

October 10, 2024

November 14, 2024

December 12, 2024

NMRA NATIONAL CONVENTION

2025, July 14-19, 2025, Convention HQ is the Sheraton Hotel 21111 Haggerty Road, Novi, MI 48375. <https://nmra2025.com/>

NATIONAL NARROW GAUGE CONVENTION

Collinsville, IL / St Louis, MO • September 3 - 6, 2025, www.45thnngc.com

GREENBERG TRAIN SHOWS

Nov. 2-3 - Monroeville, PA

Nov. 16-17 - Wilmington, MA

Nov. 23-24 - Edison, NJ

Dec. 7-8 - Timonium, MD

Dec 21-22 - Chantilly, VA

Dec. 28-29 - Hampton, VA

Prince William County Model Railroad Club Schedule - PWMRC.org

1st Saturday of each month - Open House Quantico Railroad Station

RAPPAHANNOCK MODEL RAILROADERS

October TBD Historic Appomattox Railroad Festival, (N gauge only), See Festival Website

October 14 - 15 National Museum of the Marine Corps, 1775 Semper Fidelis Way, Triangle VA, See USMC Museum website

October 26 Shannon Harvest Festival Fly-in, Shannon Airport See 10th Annual Harvest Festival Fly In at Shannon

November 9-10 Spotsylvania Towne Centre, Next to the Food Court

November 22-24 46th Annual Model Railroad Show, Science Museum of Virginia (N gauge only), See WRIC publicity for event

December 7-8 Annual Train Show, Fraternal Order of Eagles Lodge #4123, See 2023 RMR Christmas Train Show highlights

Editor's Note: *If anyone has any other Organizational information that they would like to see in the "Upcoming Events", please forward that information to the Editor for inclusion. I try to get a spread of regional and National events, but I cannot research every organization that is out there, so if you belong to or are interested in something that is not included here, please send me the information.*



Testing the new crew car.

"Promoting Railway History and Preservation"

MONTHLY RECAP

09-07-2024 - EVERY SATURDAY SOMETHING EXCITING! Saturday was another very busy day, with an est. of at least 128 attending. We made four successful runs to CSX main. Did stop on first run for squatter to move all his belonging out of gauge of track, Lucky for him it was us and not CSX. We got maintenance done on 401 and turned it for better operation. Tested out new passenger car that will be on loan. Received some good donations (material and finances), made repairs to “Z” layout and several other projects. A good day for all.

MONTHLY MEETING: This Thursday Sep.12,2024 at Museum in Taylor annex starting at 7:00 P.M. Lots happening that you should know about not just boring reports, hoping we will have a short program after business part. A good time to get answers for your questions. We are normally too busy to answer all on Saturday morning.

What a privilege to be part of the best family living history museum in the state. Thanks crew members for all you do to make it possible. Looking at high Green

09-14-2024 - NEAR NORMAL BUSY MORNING. Had a good day, visitors waiting and watching crew set up train, they seemed to enjoy that. Train left station about 9:40 and made three trips to Main line with no problems. We had a total estimate of 84 people attending for day. Some did not ride train but said they would return, did give out a couple of membership forms. The model trains ran on time and a few updates and corrections made. We also had a full consist of the Auto Train running very impressive. Discussions held on completing several projects we need to complete before cold weather. Keep your ears open so you can help.

We had a good attendance at Thursday’s monthly meeting with 15 attending, reports given ,lots of things discussed and had a video on the “Big Boy”. Mark October 10th meeting on your calendar. Remember you can ask and learn what is happening and how you can help/enjoy time at Museum.

OFFICER ELECTION STARTING. The Nominating, election committee has been appointed. If you would like to be on ballot for 2025 contact Election chairman Phillip Miller in person or email him at rtcphil@verizon.net, no later than meeting on Oct. 10th to have your name on ballot. Office holders also please let Phil know if you would like to be on ballot for your office for 2025. Dates for mailing, returning and counting ballots will be announced in next Update.

See you Saturday, maybe with a little rain we need badly. Probably run train but if not we have plenty to do inside that visitors and members can enjoy.

09-21-2024 - SLOW START TO MORNING, THEN THROUTLE 8! Visitors a little slow at start of day, but we had time to open Museum and set up train. By closing time we had an est. of 81 people stopping by. Believe we made 4 trips to main line and meet a friendly freight crew with waves and toots also a meet with NB Amtrak. Our Model trains ran well and members did updates to scenery. Members met and discussed the painting lettering of B-60, job really looks good but decided second coat needed now. It is great watching members working together on this BIG project.

We have a lot of projects ongoing that need to be completed before really cold weather sets in. Thank you members/family for your donations of time, donations and material. A family that works together can do outstanding things.

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Museum mail box operational. When mailing anything to Museum use:

Rappahannock Railroad Museum, Inc.
11700 Main Street,
Fredericksburg, VA. 22408

PAINTING AND RAIN! Yesterday was going to be great for painting, rain predicted after dark. BUT at about 1:30 there was a down pour at Museum, did not last long but then to wet to paint. I drove to museum at two and all DRY until about 3/4 mile from Museum and no rain falling then. It did not even show up on weather radars. We will plan another painting afternoon Soon. Will send email as soon as I get word. We need that second coat bad. Some plans will always crash but we will continue working together and present living history to families. Keep looking Up.

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MONTHLY RECAP

09-28-2024 - GOOD EXTENDED DAY. Rather good day with a est. of 78 people stopping by, a little short on regular members but members present did a great job of stepping up and filling in where needed. We did make a late run as visitors from a distance arrived late due to heavy traffic. So we made a total of 4 runs to Main line. Also helped hi railer cross route two and discussed track conduction. We will be having a lot of county construction in area and near tracks. We will work with it as needed. Plans seem to change daily on how and when.

Members please try to attend Saturday Morning if you can as Oct. will be a busy month as, the leaves change we should get more visitors viewing the colors. We also have several important projects delayed due to weather that we really need to complete before cold weather, watch your email as we may schedule special work days.

SAFTY NOTE: Lookout member riding engine must watch out forward and behind for any problems engineer cannot see behind. Yes flagmen can use horn for emergency, but not all needs are full emergency.

OFFICER ELECTION. The Nominating, election committee has been appointed. If you would like to be on ballot for 2025 contact Election chairman Phillip Miller in person or email him at rTCPphil@verizon.net, no later than meeting on Oct. 10th. to have your name on ballot. Office holders also please let Phil know if you would like to be on ballot for your office for 2025. ** Don't say you did not know, speak with Phil NOW. Don't make his job hard. **

Be proud of your Museum !!!!



Left: The Paint Crew. Below: The Paint Crew applying Tucson to B-60 on Sunday afternoon.



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VRE TOUR

Phillip Miller

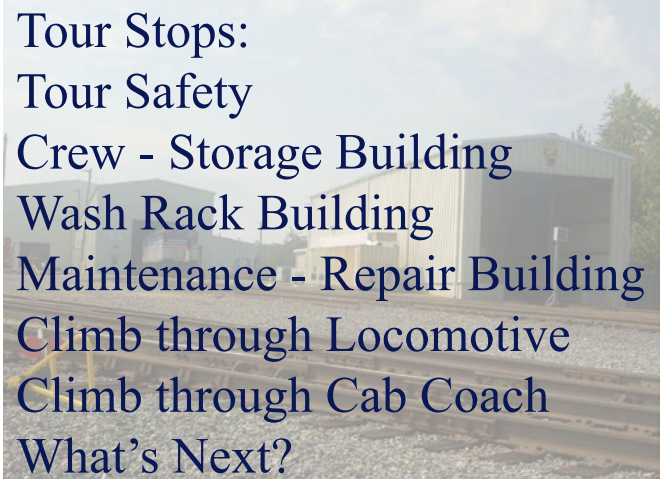


VRE.org Photo

Virginia Railway Express Spotsylvania Facility Tour August 2024

Good day, Chip and I had the opportunity to attend a tour of the Spotsylvania VRE storage yard and maintenance facility, organized by the Washington D.C. Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society (NRHS). Chip is coordinating a tour of the VRE Spotsylvania storage/maintenance facility, for members of our museum. This presentation gives a short overview of the tour we attended and hopefully this will spark interest to get museum members to sign up to attend a tour in the near future. Photos in this presentation are by Phil Miller and Matthew Miller, unless otherwise indicated. The VRE facility surprised me with how much storage they have and what activities they can accomplish for the maintenance and repair of commuter trains. This slide show presents the different things we saw during our tour.

A number of years ago, I was on a tour of Norfolk Southern's Shaffers Crossing facility in Roanoke, Virginia. My impression from the tour is that this shop can do everything the shop in Roanoke can do, but on a smaller scale.



Tour Stops:
Tour Safety
Crew - Storage Building
Wash Rack Building
Maintenance - Repair Building
Climb through Locomotive
Climb through Cab Coach
What's Next?



TOUR SAFETY LECTURE:

Ms. Sarah Higgins, VRE Director of Mechanical Operations was our tour guide. Since there was no work going on that day, we didn't have to wear all the normal safety gear. We did confirm that for our tour, closed-toe walking shoes are acceptable for our tour. No flip-flops, open toed shoes, etc. are allowed. Hiking boots are not required.

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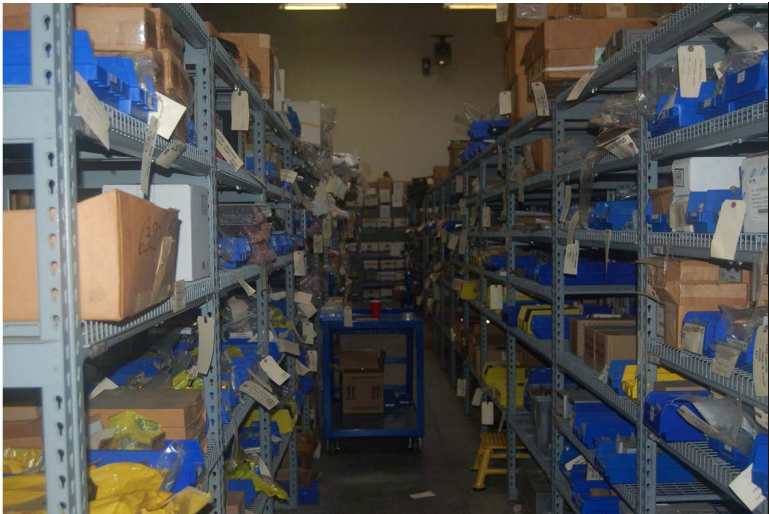
VRE TOUR

Phillip Miller



Crew room - Storage Building:

The first stop on our tour was the building that houses their small parts and equipment storage for maintaining the trains. There's also a crew rest and locker room for their staff and train operators. This facility does routine maintenance and all the heavy maintenance for all VRE trains. It was amazing how many types of parts were there to maintain the trains. Here's just a small sample of the parts they have to maintain the locomotives and cars the VRE operates.



The VRE version of the Little Yellow Train?

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VRE TOUR

Phillip Miller



Wash Rack:

The next building in our tour is the wash rack. Trains can slowly go through this to get the exterior cleaned up.

Maintenance - Repair Building:

We spent the most time in the next building that does routine maintenance and repairs. They are capable of doing minor body work from damage, such as from hitting trees on the tracks. Two cab-cars were in for repairs from trees hit during recent severe storms. The shop is also able to replace car wheelsets and locomotive wheelsets with traction motors. They can replace whole truck assemblies also. You can see yellow racks with the traction motors that can be changed out. They also have a wheel truing machine that can correct wheels that have worn down and need to be turned to correct that and give them additional life, before being replaced. They had some to see as a before and after of the milling process. This building also has meeting rooms and offices. More of that can be seen when touring the facility.



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VRE TOUR

Phillip Miller

Climb Through Locomotive:

Next, we had the opportunity to climb into one of their locomotives and walk through the entire length of it to see the cab, prime mover (engine), generator equipment, and HEP (Head-End Power) equipment. The VRE trains operate in a push-pull mode. When the trains are running from Washington, D.C. to Spotsylvania or Manassas, the locomotive pulls the train as people are used to seeing.



Cab Car Engineer's controls:

When the trains are running toward Washington, DC, the locomotive pushes the passenger cars the entire route. To control the train, a cab-car is at the front end, with an engineer's cab at the front. We had the chance to go into one of the cab-cars that was there for maintenance. Here's a photo of the engineer controls in the cab-car.



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VRE TOUR

Phillip Miller



What's Next?:

The Spotsylvania storage yard is expanding. They'll be moving their crew/parts building and expanding the yard exit tracks through that location. VRE is looking to expand service to include some weekend service so people can go into DC to tour museums or attend daytime sporting events. The VRE is also ordering more passenger cars and is looking to update the trains paint scheme. No hints of that will look like were given during the tour.

Let Chip know when you'd like to attend a tour of the VRE Spotsylvania facility. Once a favorite date is chosen, we'll schedule a tour. Possible tour dates include October 19th, 26th, or November 2nd. The tour is free.



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PHOTOS



Top Left: squatter had set up home "ON" track, police encouraged him move on. TOP Right and Center Left: FLASH BACK Sept. 22, 2009, Crane-masters working on track with members setting back watching, Note truck sitting where annexes are now and no building in back ground. 15 years ago, who could have guessed how we have grown! Bottom Left and Right: Flash back Sept 23, 2009, Think about this next time you set on the NA1870. This what NA1869 and NA1870 looked like Dec.28,2007 after sorting parts and ready to start rebuilds! This is how you preserve History.



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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Membership Application/Renewal Form

Rappahannock Railroad Museum, Inc.
Please type or print legibly

New Renewal if renewal Updated information Y N

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Family Membership(S) if Joining: _____
Membership

Regular \$15.00 _____, can Vote, can hold office

Family \$1.00 each _____, cannot vote, cannot hold office.

Museum Donation _____

Total: _____

Please mail to the following address or hand in at meeting.

Rappahannock Railroad Museum, Inc.
11700 Main Street
Fredericksburg, VA. 22408

I agree to be a member in good standing and follow safety rules of
the Rappahannock Railroad Museum, Inc.
Membership dues for January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

- Saturday Oct 5th Meet at our Museum Site 9:00am to 12:00pm for tours and train rides, construction and upgrades(weather permitting). Members continue to improve displays and area.
- Thursday Oct 10th **MUSEUM MONTHLY MEETING IN THE TAYLOR ANNEX.** Monthly meeting starting promptly at 7:00pm. Important discussion on Museum future activities.
- Saturday Oct 12th Meet at our Museum Site 9:00am to 12:00pm for tours and train rides, construction and upgrades(weather permitting). Members continue to improve displays and area.
- Saturday Oct 19th Meet at our Museum Site 9:00am to 12:00pm for tours and train rides, construction and upgrades(weather permitting). Members continue to improve displays and area.
- Saturday Oct 26th Meet at our Museum Site 9:00am to 12:00pm for tours and train rides, construction and upgrades(weather permitting). Members continue to improve displays and area.

Additional work days may be scheduled on an as needed basis.

Fall has arrived at last and all can sigh in relief,
Time for all the little ghost and goblins to play in brief;
Our museum continues to entertain all,
Come and participate if you feel the call.

“Promoting Railway History and Preservation”

SUBMISSIONS NOTE: Any items that you wish to have published in *The Mail Pouch* must be submitted as a complete package, articles must have all supporting images and diagrams at time of submission. Items to be published that are “borrowed from other publications” must have the proper credits noted to avoid copyright violations. Any items that you wish to have published in *The Mail Pouch* must be submitted to the Editor in electronic format (Text Files for articles and separate Digital Photos) prior to the **20th** of the proceeding month. Items not in an electronic format (items needing scans or typesetting) must be submitted prior to the **15th** of the proceeding month. Articles, Photos and other items may be submitted in person on Saturday mornings at the Museum, or electronically at jkeehner67@hotmail.com, **subject line EDITOR.** *All items submitted after the deadlines of the month will be held for publication in the following months Newsletter.*